

# WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pinion slip-off preventive structure of a starting apparatus in which a pinion is prevented from slipping off a pinion shaft, said pinion being splined to a spline portion formed on said pinion shaft and being in meshing engagement with a ring gear of an internal combustion engine while urged in a direction toward said ring gear from a side remote therefrom by means of an elastic member,

said structure comprising:

a projected portion extending from an end face of said pinion shaft in an axial direction thereof and having a groove formed on a smooth surface thereof in a circumferential direction thereof;

a snap ring fitted in said groove; and

a stopper having an abutting surface in abutting engagement with an end face of said pinion and an engaging portion engaged with said snap ring.

2. The pinion slip-off preventive structure of a starting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said projected portion has a diameter smaller than a root diameter of said spline portion.

3. The pinion slip-off preventive structure of a starting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a support portion having an abutting surface and extending in an axial direction of said pinion shaft, said support portion having one end near said pinion formed to enclose an end of said pinion shaft.

4. The pinion slip-off preventive structure of a starting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a space is formed between the one end of said pinion shaft and said support portion.

5. The pinion slip-off preventive structure of a starting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a spring mounted on said projected portion for urging said stopper in a direction toward said ring gear.

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